

COUNTY NEWS



PUBLISHED FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

January 2004

County Rolls Out Poll Worker Program Employees Encouraged to Serve at Polls on Election Duty

The Registrar of Voters is looking for a few good County employees. Actually, several hundred good County employees.

The assignment? Serving as a poll worker on Election Day, March 2. The reward? Personal satisfaction from playing a significant part in the democratic process. Oh, and a modest cash stipend for putting in a 15-hour workday.

Richard Pollard, an election processing supervisor with the Registrar of Voters office, said he has talked to poll workers about why they serve.

"It's very seldom for the money. (They say), 'I want to give back to the community. I want to meet my neighbor,'" Pollard said. "They just want to have a little bit larger role than just voting. They want to have a little larger role in the process."

The March election marks the first time that the County of San Diego will roll out a new poll worker program aimed specifically at County employees. The program, approved by the Board of Supervisors in October, allows County employees to serve as poll workers and receive both their regular County pay, and the stipend, which ranges from \$60 to \$100 for the day, de-



Lana Witt of the Registrar of Voters office demonstrates one of the new touch-screen voting machines. County employees are being urged to serve as poll workers in the March primary under a new program approved by the Board of Supervisors. Part of their job will be learning about the new voting system and helping voters make a smooth transition.

pending on the poll worker's specific duties. In order to participate, employees must have the approval of their supervisor.

(continued on page 3)

County Elects to Acquire New Voting System Touch-Screen Machines to Offer Many Benefits to Voters

County officials hope a new electronic voting system will provide just the right touch for the March primary election.

Last month, the Board of Supervisors approved the purchase of a touch-screen voting system to replace punch-card ballots that have been used in San Diego County for more than two decades. The new machines began arriving at the Registrar of Voters warehouse in Kearny Mesa the day after the Board's unanimous vote.

The new \$30.7 million system features portable touch-screen voting monitors that will be set up in polling places on Election Day, and an optical scan system for mail-in ballots. Federal and state funds will cover more than 90 percent of the cost of the new system.

"Voters will love it, it's very user-friendly," said Registrar of Voters Sally McPherson.

(continued on page 3)

Sheriff's Emergency Planners Learn From Their Israeli Counterparts

When a group of private citizens offered to pay for a team of Sheriff's emergency planning and response specialists to go to Israel to see first-hand how their counterparts operate, Lt. Dan Papp jumped at the chance.

Papp heads the Sheriff's Emergency Planning Detail, which, among other responsibilities, is charged with gathering intelligence and planning to prevent or respond to any terrorist activity in San Diego County.

Nowhere in the world do police and the military have more experience with terrorists than in Israel, so Papp took his sergeant, Gary Billick, Deputy Robert Luke of the Sheriff's Bomb / Arson Unit and Deputy Al Lamont of the Special Enforcement Di-

vision with him for a week-long trip in early December.

Their guide and interpreter was Sheriff's Department chaplain Rabbi Arthur Zuckerman of Congregation Beth Am in Carmel Valley. Some of Beth Am's members were among the citizens who financed the trip.

Papp and his team spent most of their time with Israel's national police.

"They were very gracious," says Papp. And very informative.

"It was extremely enlightening," Papp adds.

"It was a good way to validate some of the things we do plus identify some things we need to reassess."

They got to witness a drill which involved a mock attack on Israel's parliament, the Knesset. Papp says they also visited sites of recent bombings, and were at Israel's border with Lebanon the night after two would-be bombers were shot while trying to infiltrate to stage an attack on an elementary school.

One of the things which impressed Papp most was the free flow of intelligence between military and police agencies.

"They're very adept at exchanging information," Papp says.

Papp feels the trip was very worthwhile – and the lessons learned have some real practical applications for the San Diego County region's efforts to prevent terrorism here.

NewsBriefs

New Year Brings Extra Paycheck

With the first payday of 2004 falling on Jan. 2, County employees will receive 27 paychecks during the calendar year instead of the usual 26, according to the Auditor & Controller's Office. This is unusual, occurring only once every 11 or 12 years. (The last time it happened was in 1992, and it won't happen again until 2015.) The Auditor & Controller's Office said employees' pay rate won't change, but their taxable income for the year will be 3.8 percent higher than in a 26-payday year. For more information, contact your department's payroll clerk.

Bargains Abound at Public Administrator's Auction

A wide array of items, from vehicles and framed paintings, to electronics and jewelry, will be among the offerings at the County Public Administrator's next personal property auction, set for Saturday, Jan. 17. The more unique items will be shown on the department's Web site, www.papg.org, about two weeks before the auction. Registration begins at 8 a.m. with the auctions of vehicles and other items to follow. The auction will be held at the County Operations Center Annex, 5201 Ruffin Road, Suite A, San Diego.

Fire-Damaged Parks Reopen

Two County parks that were damaged in the October wildfires – Lake Jennings Regional Park east of El Cajon and William Heise County Park near Julian – reopened to the public last month. Before the parks could reopen, debris and damaged trees had to be removed for safety reasons. Later this month, Louis Stelzer Regional Park in Lakeside is expected to reopen. For the latest information on park closures, log onto the department's Web site at www.sdparcs.org.

DIBBS Hands Out Cash Awards

The County's Do It Better By Suggestion, or DIBBS, program, honored 66 suggestion award winners at a ceremony held Dec. 10 at the County Administration Center. The awards covered suggestions made between July and November of 2003. A total of \$28,977 was handed out to award winners for suggestions that generated \$249,161 in savings. Chairman Greg Cox and Supervisor Ron Roberts presented the awards. For a complete list of winners, look at Page 9 of the Online edition of County News.

HMD Fund-raiser

Members of Environmental Health's Hazardous Materials Division raised \$525 at a salad bar fund-raiser for the family of a construction worker who died when a scaffold collapsed outside the Mills Building during exterior renovation work in November. The contribution was matched by KHS&S Contractors, which means a total of \$1,050 went to the family of construction worker Luis Marquez.



In Walt's Words

2004 Starts with Good News, Bad News

It's a good news, bad news story as 2004 unfolds. On the positive side, we are a County government with a \$4 billion annual budget, which we will spend on providing excellent services to the residents of San Diego County. On the less happy side, fiscal problems 500 miles north of us may cause great pain right here at home.

Whenever possible, I like to see the glass as half-full. This year, we hope to accomplish a number of important projects, including the launch of a state-of-the-art touch-screen voting system; increasing terrorism preparedness; completing our General Plan update; moving forward with plans for a new Edgemoor Health Care Campus; deploying the Oracle financial systems; opening and operating the new East Mesa Juvenile Hall; reducing worker's compensation costs; and hopefully, planning and designing upgrades for our Public Health Lab and Medical Examiner facilities.

But there are thunderclouds on the horizon that threaten our plans. When the governor made good on his pledge to roll back the car tax increase, our revenue plunged. Worst-case, we could lose \$180 million between now and June 30. Unless the Legislature does the right thing and makes up what we have lost from the car tax, we may have little choice but to scale back our list of desired projects, and also to cut important services.

The money we stand to lose is for programs near and dear to the public's heart, primarily public safety, libraries and important health and social services.

We are not panicking, because in many respects we are better prepared to deal with this crisis than many other counties and cities across the state. But we still may face very difficult choices, because we don't have the luxury of running a deficit, and we must balance our books at the end of the year.

That's why I have instructed my team to put together a plan to bring before the Board of Supervisors later this month or in early February, that will reduce the services we provide to the public commensurate with cuts handed to us by the state.

The Board of Supervisors and I will need your patience and support as we confront the difficult decisions that lie ahead. Know that our priorities include doing the best we can for the residents of San Diego County who need us, and doing right by you, the employees who assure our place as one of the most efficient and effective County governments in the nation.

Walt Ekard
Chief Administrative Officer

County Poll worker Program

(continued from page 1)

Registrar of Voters Sally McPherson proposed the County Poll Worker program after observing similar successful efforts in other California counties. Also, the Registrar's office wanted to increase the number of poll workers with computer skills as the County moves to a touch-screen voting system for the March election.

Chief Administrative Officer Walt Ekard said he wants to serve as a poll worker if his schedule allows.

"It's a great opportunity to observe our democratic process firsthand, and to make a contribution," Ekard said. "I encourage County employees to serve as poll workers with the approval of their supervisors."

Along with the advantage of computer skills, County employees are customer-service oriented, which is a plus for working at the polls. The ultimate goal, said Lana Witt of the Registrar's office, is to have one County employee at every polling place. In March, there will be 1,600 polling places open.

"We need poll workers, and we need poll workers who are computer savvy," said Witt, also an election processing supervisor. "We had seen the success of the other counties and hoped it would work here."

There are five poll worker positions: precinct inspector and assistant; system inspector and assistant; and clerk. Officials are hoping County employees will volunteer for the system inspector position, which involves transporting and setting up the touch-screen voting machines. The precinct inspector supervises the polling place, while the assistants for each position must be prepared to fill in for the inspectors if necessary.

Go to CWW, and click on County Poll Worker Program, for more information and the application form. Also, you can call the poll worker program coordinator, Stephanie Stubbs, at (858) 694-3460.

New Voting System

(continued from page 1)

Under its contract with Diebold Election Systems, Inc., the County will purchase 10,200 Accu-Vote TSx voting machines to be placed in the County's 1,600 polling places. Between now and Election Day on March 2, the Registrar's staff will be busy getting the new system ready, training poll workers and getting the word out to the general public.

According to McPherson, the new system has many advantages over punch cards and their notorious "hanging chads." She said the touch-screen system won't allow voters to "over-vote" or make too many choices, which would invalidate their ballot on the old system. Also, a summary screen at the end will alert them to any items they missed and also allow them to make changes before cast-

ing their ballot.

The ballots will be available in English, Spanish and Tagalog, and each polling place will have a machine equipped with an audio ballot that will allow blind voters to vote unassisted.

The Diebold system has been certified for use by the California Secretary of State after rigorous testing, which ensures its accuracy and security, McPherson said.

"In my mind it is as secure, or maybe more secure, than the paper ballot," she said.

The Secretary of State decided in November that touch-screen voting machines must provide a paper receipt for voters by July 1, 2006. The County's contract calls for Diebold to make this change at no extra charge.

Ver•ba•tim

Letters from satisfied customers served by County employees.

George Arviso (Public Works) was thanked by Sheriff Bill Kolender for his assistance to emergency workers during the Paradise Fire.

"His forethought to offer roadblock materials, sign postings and other necessary DPW services was extremely beneficial to emergency service workers and area residents alike."

Donn LiPera (Environmental Health) was thanked for his assistance with a large Voluntary Assistance Program project.

"I wanted to recognize his professionalism, integrity and all-around great performance."

Pat Nolan (Ag, Weights & Measures) was chosen as the best speaker at a seminar held by the Pesticide Applicators Professional Association.

"Your professional presentation is what helps give the PAPA seminars their quality continuing education. I look forward to working with you at future seminars."

Noreen Crane, Lee Ann Lardy, Jeremy Keating, Lidia Sosinsky and Tom Burkel (Public Works) were thanked for their assistance with a fireworks show and military appreciation day at Gillespie Field.

"Without your assistance we could not have put on this very special East County event. Thank you for all your support. You truly made this event possible."

Melissa Chan (HHSA) received kudos from a client.

"She has done a good job and I think she is a good child case worker. Thank you so much for helping me."

Check out the online version of County News for more Verbatim.

NEWSMakers

Tracy M. Sandoval has been appointed Assistant Chief Financial Officer/Auditor and Controller. In her new position, she will oversee the Auditor and Controller Department, and assist newly appointed Chief Financial Officer Don Steuer. Sandoval has been with the County for five years, and her most recent job was finance director for the Finance and General Government Group. Before that, she worked in the County Technology Office, and worked for KPMG for five years before joining the County.

Amanda Mills has been named assistant director for the Department of Housing and Community Development. She comes to the County from the City of Encinitas, where she has served as the city's Housing and Grants Coordinator since June 1996.

Prior to that, she worked for the County in HCD as a grants administrator for three years. She has a master's degree in public administration from San Diego State University and is a resident of San Diego.

The Department of Child Support Services has been honored this year as the top agency in the state of California in three of five federal

standard performance categories for "very large" counties. State Child Support Director Curtis Child presented the awards at the Child Support Directors Association meeting in Sacramento in November. Among the child support agencies representing the six largest counties in the state, San Diego was recognized in the areas of paternity establishment, improvement in the percentage of current child support collected compared to support owed, and percentage of cases with court orders established.

Alfredo Aguirre has been named Acting Local Mental Health Director for San Diego County. He has been the Children's Mental Health Director since September 1999.

Before coming to San Diego, Aguirre was responsible for Children's Mental Health Services in San Mateo County. During his 21 years working for San Mateo County Mental Health, he held many clinical and administrative positions, including the Director of a mental health clinic for adults and children.

Chairman Greg Cox and **Nick Macchione**, deputy director and general manager of HHSA, were separately honored recently as "health heroes" by the Council of Community Clinics.

Ranger Carries On After Loss of Home Parks Workers Aided Firestorm Evacuations

When Caillin Ní Chruallaoich got home at midnight on Saturday, Oct. 25, she noticed ash and smoke in the air, but wasn't too worried because the fire was burning near Ramona, more than 10 miles to the north and heading away from her Lakeside residence.

A supervising ranger with the County Department of Parks and Recreation, Caillin went to bed, but was awakened a couple of hours later by a call from her boss, Cory Linder. He warned her that the fire had changed direction, and could be coming her way. She began calling and knocking on the doors of her neighbors in the Blue Sky Ranch development.

People, dogs and cats were quickly assembled for the short trip down to the Lakeside Community Center. Things went smoothly, because the tiny community had packed up twice before in the past year when other fires had burned close by. This time, however, Caillin and her neighbors did not get to return to their beds after the fire drill. Five of the six homes were destroyed when the Cedar Fire roared over a nearby ridge, leaving ashes and cement foundations in its wake. The late-night call may have saved their lives.

"We were darn lucky, it could have been a lot worse," said Caillin, who was among those who lost her home.

In spite of her loss, Caillin spent that day evacuating people and animals from the fire zones around the County with fellow Parks and Recreation staffers Nick Sloan and Roberto Bejar.

Among the evacuees was Lakeside resident Joan Embery, ambassador for the San Diego Zoo. At Embery's ranch, Caillin helped rescue exotic animals including cheetahs, an aardvark, a kangaroo and a python.

As they drove around the County, Caillin said, the park rangers were stunned by the devastation they saw. "The word 'Armageddon' kept going through our heads," she said.

Once the initial danger had passed, Caillin joined thousands of other San Diego County fire victims in trying to get her life back together. She lost everything from her favorite books to a set of 1920s-era china passed down from her grandmother.

"People were so generous, it really helped me get through this difficult time," she said.

With the holiday season going on around her, Caillin has marveled at the resilience of both her fellow humans and the plants and animals that are already showing signs of new life after the fires.

She noted that people who were not personally affected by the fires, but may have donated to relief efforts, are now moving on with their lives, and she asked for patience for herself and other fire victims who are still learning to cope with their losses.

Although she has found a temporary place to live, she plans to move back to her rural home once it is rebuilt.

"Living out here so close to nature has its consequences. It was an act of nature and I'm not afraid of it. It's absolutely breathtaking out here," she said.



Caillin and her dog, Max, at her home-site.

County News is published for the 17,000 employees of the County of San Diego.

Board of Supervisors

Greg Cox, District 1
Dianne Jacob, District 2
Pam Slater, District 3
Ron Roberts, District 4
Bill Horn, District 5

Chief Administrative Officer

Walter F. Elard

This information is available upon request in alternative formats for persons with disabilities.

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Joe Tash, Editor

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COUNTY NEWS *Extra*

Service Awards

Congratulations to County employees reaching the following milestones in January:

35 Years

Juliette Bolton (District Attorney)
James D. Pippin (District Attorney)

30 Years

Marilyn J. Allen (Health & Human Services Agency)
Joaquin Anguera (Health & Human Services Agency)
George A. Eyer (Sheriff)
Charles V. Frice (District Attorney)
Javier Heras (Environmental Health)
Lavoyne M. Jackson (SD County Retirement)
Alfred D. Juarez (Health & Human Services Agency)
Emelita R. Noriega (Health & Human Services Agency)
David R. Oyos (DGS – Facilities Management)
Maria E. Tamayo (Child Support)

25 Years

Linda Auger (Health & Human Services Agency)
Glenyce E. Barber (Health & Human Services Agency)

Dann K. Crawford (Health & Human Services Agency)
Richard L. Dearie (Agriculture, Weights & Measures)
Ardeth M. DeRose (Child Support)
Corazon G. Espiritu (Housing/Community Development)
Elizabeth A. Gabber (Health & Human Services Agency)
Carlo G. Guzman (Health & Human Services Agency)
Mary M. Lachance (District Attorney)
Lana M. Ludlow (Health & Human Services Agency)
Argia V. McKercher (Assessor)
Sandra M. Montgomery (Auditor & Controller)
Octavia T. Parker (Sheriff)
Brian A. Salmon (Assessor)
Eleanor Sipperley (Health & Human Services Agency)
Julie P. Steidl (Health & Human Services Agency)
Martha Carrales-Weeks (Superior Court)
Joan Wright (Sheriff)
Jaye L. Yoshonis (Health & Human Services Agency)

20 Years

Carol L. Adams (Sheriff)
Deborah A. Bauer (Sheriff)
Karen M. Cabrera (Public Defender)
Michael E. Casey (Sheriff)
Rubertina E. Castaneda (District Attorney)
Patricia Chavez-Fallon (Superior Court)
Maureen A. Colahan (Superior Court)
Vickie L. DeYoung (Superior Court)
Charles E. Evans (Sheriff)
Ronald E. Farnsworth (Public Works)
Ken K. Frederiksen (DGS – Facilities Management)
Virginia E. Gorczyca (Health & Human Services Agency)
Frank B. Hamlett (Health & Human Services Agency)
Suzanne M. Hess (County Library)
Amanda E. Klaahsen (DGS – Facilities Management)
Roderick M. MacDonald (Sheriff)
Linda D. Powell (Sheriff)
Stasi N. Redding (Agriculture, Weights & Measures)

In Memoriam

Harry E. Chadwick (Public Works, 1982)	11/03
Clifford E. Flynn (Sheriff, 1977)	11/03
Gene R. Freeman (Auditor & Controller, 1982)	11/03
Ralph E. Gooding (Social Services, 1983)	11/03
Gary L. Hancock (Probation, 1989)	11/03
Laura L. Herber (Social Services, 1998)	11/03
Raymond K. Koenig (HHSA, 2001)	11/03
Donna S. Long (HHSA, 2003)	10/03
Edward B. Louthan (Public Welfare, 1977)	11/03
Gladys Madoff (Welfare, 1975)	09/03
Mary Ann Schuartz (Auditor & Controller, 1995)	11/03
Francis N. Swenson (Municipal Court, 1983)	10/03

Eileen M. Uebbing (Clerk of the Board, 1983)	09/03
Richard Vincent (General Services, 1987)	11/03
Pierre Vivoli (Transportation, 1978)	11/03
Leonard G. Walker (Sheriff, 1978)	11/03
Francis W. Wood, Sr. (Sheriff, 1986)	11/03

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of active County employees Judy N. Fujisake of Environmental Health (11/03), and Florentino Yumul of HHSA (11/03).

County News Extra includes expanded information about and for County employees. If you have something you'd like considered, contact the newsletter editor at (619) 595-4627.

Retirements

The San Diego County Employees Retirement Association reports the following employees recently retired:

Eugenia I. Arguello
Gary H. Bihler (Health & Human Services Agency)
Marian Bishop (District Attorney)
Sylvia Bradley (Sheriff)
Benilda P. Cabral (Superior Court)
Genevieve Clapp (Superior Court)
George W. Clarke (District Attorney)
Susan P. Cox (Sheriff)
Wayne B. Cox (Facilities Management)
Jose Daniels (Health & Human Services Agency)
Glenn P. Davis (Probation)
Karim A. Dehzad (Health & Human Services Agency)
Richard A. Eurich (Marshal)
Henry Filar (Human Resources)
William D. Flores (Sheriff)
Gwendolyn Glass-Coleman (Sheriff)
Constancia B. Golez (Health & Human Services Agency)
Jerry D. Hansen (Sheriff)
Raymundo Hugo (Sheriff)
Barbara A. Kesanen (Probation)
Donna G. Kunz (Superior Court)
Rodney E. Kyle (Sheriff)
Jacqueline L. Landers (Health & Human Services Agency)
Allan J. Marcus
Roland E. Maus (Sheriff)

Joseph S. Minner (Housing/Community Development)
Susan F. Moezie (Dept. of Information Services)
Dianne M. Morton (Health & Human Services Agency)
Vito Munna (Health & Human Services Agency)
James J. Muskewitz (Health & Human Services Agency)
Joseph G. Ney
Leslie A. Olson (Housing & Community Development)
Lois L. Patrick
Diane G. Presley (Health & Human Services Agency)
Ruth Richardson (Health & Human Services Agency)
Benjamin M. Sheets (Health & Human Services Agency)
Clara J. Sheets
William L. Sims (Sheriff)
William L. Snodgrass (Agriculture, Weights & Measures)
James M. Stark
Cindy L. Steinauer (Assessor, Recorder, County Clerk)
George W. Stoba (Sheriff)
Maria J. Stoddard (Health & Human Services Agency)
Guadalupe Swingle (Dept. of Information Services)
Priscilla Todd (Health & Human Services Agency)
Marilyn M. (Rose) Werth
Robert C. Williams (Health & Human Services Agency)
Joseph T. Yager (Air Pollution Control District)
Erlinda C. Young (District Attorney)
Thomas A. Zoll (Sheriff)

[Ver•ba•tim] *extra*

Bella Veitzman (HHSA) was thanked by a client for her excellent assistance.

"I would just like to take a moment to express my appreciation for the job you do and assistance you provide. I have contacted you several times over the course of 12 months and have never failed to receive a prompt and efficient response to my concerns."

Nick Vent (Environmental Health) was praised by another County department for a training class he conducted.

"Your technical knowledge and passion for the safety of your fellow County employees is admirable. You model the County motto, 'The Noblest Motive is the Public Good.'"

Bruce Watson (Public Works) was commended for his response a request for assistance.

"We greatly appreciate his very thoughtful professionalism and thank you for your excellent staff."

Cliff Savage and Ernie Comagon (Public Works) were singled out for their work on the removal of a dead oak tree.

"The job was accomplished in a timely and thorough manner. The stump was ground and no unsightly residue was left."

Norma Diaz (HHSA) was recognized for being helpful, efficient and friendly.

"She makes me feel comfortable, and gives me a lot of special attention. She is always happy to answer all my questions and help me as much as she can."

Connie Shelton (HHSA) was thanked for her emotional support and commended for her kindness.

"We appreciate your patience and thoroughness. Thanks once again for all your kindness."

Marivic Reyes (Assessor/Recorder/Clerk) was thanked by a woman she assisted.

"I can't tell you how grateful I am for all your patience, understanding and compassion shown to me concerning this matter of my home."

Claudia Locano (Assessor/Recorder/Clerk) received kudos for providing excellent customer service.

"The representative that helped me is named Claudia. She was the most patient, polite, and the most informative representative I have ever dealt with."

Craig Rustad (Assessor/Recorder/Clerk) was thanked for helping a customer.

"I have been impressed with that office each time I have contacted them, and was particularly grateful for Craig's help."

Gordon Stone and Maryann Schigur (Parks and Recreation) were thanked by a customer for the high-quality after-school programs at Fallbrook Community Center.

"Most importantly for the children, they enjoy their time spent at the Community Center and are always kept busy and interested. For working parents, it is a comfort to know that your children are happy, safe and well taken care of while you are at work!"

News Briefs Extra

Comfort Quilts

The RSVP Quilters from Los Alamos, New Mexico, recently sent the County's RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteers Program) team two boxes full of quilts they made to comfort the victims of our recent wildfires. The RSVP Quilters are a group of 12 women, ages 50-92, who get together to "sew, share and eat soup." In a letter accompanying the quilts, one of the



Shown with the quilts are RSVP's Carole Miller, left, and Emelita Gardiola.

quilters wrote, "We send our love and our prayers for your recovery. It has been three years since our fire. Some 400 families lost their homes. Those houses are being rebuilt. Our mountains are starting to recover their greenery. We know that things will never be the same, but life is made up of change and being able to see the beauty of the change helps us to accept it." The quilts have been taken to the community centers in Alpine and Ramona for distribution.

Probation's Work Project Office Comes Through for Kids

Probation officers and support staff at the department's Work Project Office in Kearny Mesa went overboard this year for the Toys for Tots program. Donations of toys and money led to a windfall for needy children, with the cash being used to purchase bicycles as gifts. The Work Project Office oversees probationers who have been ordered to perform community service such as cleaning and maintaining parks and picking up trash along roadways.



Donations from probation staff create a barrel of fun for local children.

HHSA Staff Support Children in Need

Children in Need, Inc. (CIN) is a nonprofit charitable corporation run by HHSA staff that provides financial assistance to abused and disadvantaged children in San Diego County. Year-long fundraising efforts support enrichment activities for the kids such as membership dues, sports fees and various lessons. To learn more about CIN or how to help the children, please contact Mindy Ripley at (760) 967-4541 or mindy.ripley@sdcounty.ca.gov. Donations, volunteers and other supports are always welcome!

Lakeside Teens Get New Clubhouse

Last month, the Department of Parks and Recreation celebrated the grand opening of a 2,100-square-foot teen center in Lakeside called the Lakeside REC Club. The club will be a place where middle and high school students can go after school for fun and learning. The club offers a variety of activities, including dance and ceramic classes, and a music and computer room.



Incoming Chairwoman Dianne Jacob cuts the ribbon for the new teen center with the help of local teens.

January is National Mentoring Month

The National Mentoring Partnership has announced the third annual National Mentoring Month campaign for the month of January. This is a nationwide effort to recruit volunteer mentors for young people who are at risk of not achieving their full potential. The theme for this year's campaign is "Who mentored you? Thank them and pass it on!" There are some 300 foster children waiting for mentors through the County's Foster Youth Mentor Program. In honor of those who mentored you, why not "pass it on" and sign up to become a mentor to a foster child? Activities may include providing transportation, tutoring, and social or educational outings. For more information, contact Jannette Kutchins, mentor coordinator, at (858) 616-5930.

Golf Crazy

The San Diego City and County Employees Golf Club is adding new members. County employees, retirees, spouses and friends are welcome to join. They play a different course on the third Saturday of each month. In 2004, the schedule includes Balboa, Singing Hills, Coronado, Cottonwood, RB Inn and more. The golf club has been in existence since 1957 and has provided an excellent opportunity for City and County employees to get together in monthly tournaments and socialize with each other. Those who are interested in joining can contact Jeff Swiney, Public Works, at jeff.swiney@sdcounty.ca.gov, or (858) 874-4019. There are prizes each month for the top three finishers in two flights, closest to pins, low gross and low putts. Join the fun!

DIBBS Awards

Agriculture/Weights & Measures:

Intangible Awards \$50: TINA THOMAS

Air Pollution Control District:

Intangible Award \$50: CATHERINE TURVEY

Animal Services:

Productivity & Tangible Award \$125, Saved \$1,592, CHERYL WARDENAR increased revenue and improved the process for bank balance auditing using online services.

Productivity Award \$100, Saved \$2,002, SUSAN O'HANLON improved the process for alerting staff on daily specialized care instructions or treatments for animals in kennels.

Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk:

Intangible Awards \$50: GARRY SOBECK & CHRISTIAN ROBERTSON

Intangible Awards \$50: MIKE KVEEN & MATTHEW SMITH

Child Support Services:

Intangible Award \$50: DONA HALSTED

Clerk of the Board:

Tangible Award \$5,336, Saved \$30,694, ISIDORO ALVENDIA improved energy conservation efforts by requesting the installation of automatic clock timers to turn off lights at a designated time in the CAC building.

District Attorney:

Intangible Awards \$50: BARBARA ARRONA, IRMA SLINGERLAND, MARGARET THOMPSON & KAREN WEISJOHN

Environmental Health:

Productivity & Tangible Award \$1,302, Saved \$24,726, MICHAEL VERNETTI saved staff time streamlining the permit process.

Productivity Award \$332, Saved \$6,637, JAMES HENDERSON saved staff time by using PowerPoint and a macro to import files from digital cameras.

Intangible Award \$50: FRAN SJOBERG

General Services:

Tangible Award \$5,459, Saved \$37,920, DAVID VAUGHAN increased the value of electricity generated by improving the RFP contracting process.

Tangible Award \$712, Savings \$4,747, MARC LORD reduced revenue by eliminating a data resource contract with Costar Comp services.

Tangible Award \$484, Saved \$3,225, MARC LORD saved revenue by eliminating the duplication of a service contract with MetroScan and using a separate existing service contract with another vendor.

Health & Human Services Agency:

Productivity Award \$345, Saved \$6,909, JILL ARRINGTON improved office efficiency and saved staff time by using an intake log to assist in the tracking of pending In-Home Supportive Services cases.

Productivity Award \$270, Saved \$5,403, CHRIS CARTER improved office efficiency and public relations by using resource data short cuts to the Call Center for Aging & Independence Services.

Productivity Award \$174, Saved \$3,476, ANNIE KAO increased efficiency by using Web- based interviewing for quick investigations.

Tangible Award \$560, Saved \$3,734, STEVEN PAYMARD saved supply costs by discontinuing the use of envelopes in childcare packets.

Intangible Awards \$50: MARTHA ARMENTA, FELICIA BOYD, VIRGINIA CURTOM, SHERRY FREELAND, SANDRA GUERRA, ANITA LINDSEY, LEAH LINGEN, CORRIN MALONE, STEVE MIZUNO, LUIS NUNEZ, DAVID PINO, DAVID PUGH, KYMBERLEE ROBLES, KURT REUSSNER, SHERRY SCHADECK (Ms. Schadeck is receiving two \$50 Intangible Awards), ALMA SMITH, PAUL STUTZ & LINDA WAGGONER (Ms. Waggoner is receiving two \$50 Intangible Awards),

Intangible Awards \$50: CINDY GREGORY & CONNIE WOLFE, Intangible Awards \$50: ANN BURIN & LAURA VILORIA.

Housing & Community Development:

Intangible Award \$50: LORENE KELLOGG

Library:

Productivity & Tangible Award \$485, Saved \$8,601, PHILLIP ADAMSKI saved significant labor costs by recommending the adoption of a new policy to have on-site sealed bid auctions, when applicable for remodels and closings.

Medical Examiner:

Tangible Award \$923, Saved \$6,152, CATHERINE HAMM provided substantial savings to service contracts for repair and preventive maintenance on various laboratory instruments using a third party vendor.

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DIBBS Awards

(Continued from Page 9)

Probation:

Productivity & Tangible Award \$4,330, Saved \$31,962, ERNEST SUSI provided substantial savings in repair costs by recommending the replacement of all low-grade emergency light buttons and switch plates be upgraded with tamper- proof models.

Intangible Awards \$50: BARRY CALABRESE, CONNIE CLARK & SHARON MOFFETT

Public Works:

Tangible Award \$3,076, Saved \$20,505, MICHAEL JONES saved revenue by directly purchasing radios from the manufacturer and then purchasing a specialized software program to fine-tune all radios by the FCC deadline.

Productivity Award \$1,000, Saved \$26,261, ALBERT SAKR saved staff time and improved customer service by streamlining the refund request for development projects.

Productivity & Tangible Award \$548, Saved \$5,416, LEE ANN LARDY saved staff time and supplies by changing the procedures for preparing and mailing agendas, minutes and back up materials to the advisory council and all interested parties.

Intangible Awards \$50: TIM CAULDER, LAWRENCE CUATICO, SHARON MING & MARLENE WILLIAMS

Registrar of Voters:

Tangible Award \$641, Saved \$4,275, VIRGINIA CANNON eliminated 40 hours of temporary worker time previously used in election years by revising the procedures for hiring temporary staff to assist with poll worker payroll tasks.

Intangible Awards \$50: NELLIE MUNOZ & DENNIS TRAVERS

Sheriff:

Tangible Award \$343, Saved \$2,287, BRIAN TULLOS reduced supply cost for printer equipment by switching the default printer from the colored laser to a lower-cost black and white printer.